



## **2006 Scholarship Announcement**

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) provides scholarships to deserving Hispanic students that wish to pursue or are pursuing a Bachelors degree in a natural resources or a natural resources conservation-related field of study at an accredited four-year institution.

Four scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to graduating high school students accepted to an accredited college or university or registered students in their first through third years.

In addition, the Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship for Communications of \$1,000.00 will be awarded to one female student majoring in public affairs or a natural resources conservation-related field of study.

Following are the application form for 2006 and guidelines for completing and submitting the application. The due date is April 7, 2006.

**National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees  
Scholarship Program  
2006 Information and Guidelines**

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) was first organized in 1933, as the Soil Erosion Service and was later known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, USDA went through reorganization and the Agency's name became the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Agency's purpose has always been, and continues to be, the promotion of the conservation and wise use of our country's natural resources. USDA-NRCS employees possess backgrounds in a variety of disciplines that include - agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, civil engineering, computer science, crops science, hydrology, range science, soil science, wildlife science, and several other disciplines.

NRCS accomplishes its conservation goals by drawing upon the various sciences and conservation disciplines to help private landowners conserve their soil, natural resources and water resources. NRCS employees and private landusers assess the land's capabilities and resources along with the existing conservation problems and opportunities. NRCS employees then work closely with agricultural producers and landowners to assist them in developing conservation plans and with the implementation of conservation practices while achieving their production goals and objectives. Through the implementation of conservation practices, the overall quality of life within a watershed and across our country is improved.

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCS) was established as a professional society of Natural Resources Conservation Service employees. NOPHNRCS promotes the belief that Hispanics can and should fill an existing, invaluable void in the protection of our country's natural resources and the wise use of our agricultural and recreational private lands. NOPHNRCS was created to assist the USDA-NRCS with its delivery of Program Information and Program Benefits to minority and non-minority communities; to showcase the value that Hispanics bring to the USDA-NRCS; to demonstrate the role of Hispanics in a diverse, multi-cultural workforce; and to serve as a strong link between the USDA-NRCS and the Hispanic community.

USDA-NRCS has recognized the fact that Hispanics are the most under-represented group within the Agency. The USDA-NRCS leadership also recognizes the fact that Hispanics are the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population and that many of today's agricultural producers come from Hispanic backgrounds. NOPHNRCS was organized to augment the outreach programs of USDA and NRCS, and to improve and enhance USDA Program Delivery. Internally, NOPHNRCS has vowed to assist USDA-NRCS achieve a multicultural workforce and to assist with the recruitment and professional development of quality Natural Resources Conservation Service Hispanic employees.

USDA-NRCS and NOPHNRCS recognize that Hispanics face a daunting educational challenge and that Hispanics continue to be severely under-represented in our nation's colleges and universities. Hispanics also continue to be under-represented in the natural resources and natural resources conservation field of study. With this Scholarship Program, NOPHNRCS achieves one of its founding goals, "to develop and establish a NOPHNRCS Scholarship & Endowment Fund." NOPHNRCS intends to support Hispanics goals of higher education and to encourage Hispanics to become protectors of our country's natural resources through this Scholarship and Endowment Fund Program.

NOPHNRCS wishes to provide scholarships to deserving Hispanic students who wish to pursue, are currently enrolled in, or are admitted to an accredited four year institution with the intent of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural resources field or a natural resources conservation related field of study.

Candidates selected to receive the 2006 NOPHNRCSE Scholarship will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, personal strengths, demonstrated leadership abilities, and career goals. NOPHNRCSE will accept Scholarship Applications until April 7, 2006.

Four selected winners will receive \$1,000 each. In addition, the Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship will be awarded to one female student majoring in public affairs or a natural resources conservation-related field of study. The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund Committee will determine the 2006 NOPHNRCSE recipients utilizing an established selection criterion. Each applicant will be evaluated on the basis of their complete Scholarship Application package that must include the items requested below. The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee is organized and administered by the NOPHNRCSE National Council.

### Required Scholarship Applicant Information

In order for NOPHNCSE to consider any Scholarship application, the prospective candidates must submit all of the following information:

- 1) A completed and signed 2006 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application Form;
- 2) A Personal Statement of 350 to 500 words in length, double spaced which should include information about the applicant's background, the name(s) of school(s) you plan to attend or are attending, extra curricular activities, career ambitions and goals, personal goals, hardships overcome, and any other information that the applicant feels relevant (*remember the 500 word limit*);
- 3) A copy of an official or certified high school transcript(s) if applicant is a high school student or a copy of an official or certified college transcript(s) if applicant is a college student;
- 4) Two letters of recommendation from High School teacher(s)/counselor(s) or College professors; and
- 5) Provide proof of U. S. Citizenship (copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate).
- 6) Graduating H. S. applicants must submit a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college you plan to attend.

Please submit all of the items listed above to Flavio Garza Jr., Chairman; NOPHNCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund Committee; 7209 E. Saunders, Suite 7; Laredo, TX 78043. All items must be postmarked by April 7, 2006. To learn more about NOPHNCSE or USDA-NRCS please explore our web pages at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/hispanic/> or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, respectively.

**National Organization of Professional Hispanic  
Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees**

**2006 Scholarship Application**

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNRCSE) provides scholarships to deserving Hispanic students that wish to pursue or are pursuing a Bachelors degree in a natural resources or a natural resources conservation related field of study at an accredited four-year institution. Please complete this application (print legibly) and submit it with all of the items requested to:

Flavio Garza Jr., Chairman  
NOPHNRCSE Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee  
7209 E. Saunders, Suite 7  
Laredo, TX 78043

Complete application package must be postmarked by April 7, 2006. Incomplete or late applications will not be evaluated.

Circle one:    Mr.    Mrs.    Miss    Ms.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (Mo./Day/Yr.): \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place (State and Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of High School or  
College you are currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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GPA (on a 4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizenship: \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No.

Note: Your Scholarship Application will not be processed without proof of U.S. Citizenship.

Name of the college, organization or person from which you received this application.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The following items must be submitted along with this signed application form. Failure to submit a complete 2006 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package will result in you forfeiting any opportunity to be selected for a 2006 NOPHNCSE Scholarship.

The following items constitute a complete 2006 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package:

1. Submit this completed application with your signature;
2. Submit a personal statement of 350 to 500 words in length (double-spaced). Please include information such as personal background, name of school(s) you plan to attend or are attending, personal and career goals, and extra curricular activities. You may also include other information that you feel is important (*remember not to exceed 500 words*);
3. Submit a copy of an official or certified high school or college transcript;
4. Submit two letters of recommendation from a High School teacher(s)/counselor(s) or College professor(s); and
5. Proof of U.S. citizenship (copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate).
6. Graduating H. S. applicants submit a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college you plan to attend.

**\*\* Note:** Receipt of a NOPHNCSE Scholarship does not constitute a guarantee of future employment with the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other federal agency.

Certification: I certify that all of the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Purposely providing false information may result in the recall of any scholarship granted or in the forfeiture of any scholarship awarded.

I am aware that any scholarship awarded by NOPHNCSE will be disbursed through my University Financial Aid Office. If I am selected to receive a NOPHNCSE Scholarship, I will utilize the NOPHNCSE award toward expenses related to my college attendance. Also, I understand that if I receive an award, there is no guarantee of renewal. I must reapply for a new scholarship each year.

I understand that proof of college enrollment will be required if selected and that I must notify my University Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE of any changes to my enrollment status. I further understand that changes to my enrollment status may result in the cancellation of any award provided. I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to keep my institution's Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE informed of all address changes.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to submit a complete application package to NOPHNCSE in compliance with the posted deadline. Incomplete or late application materials will result in my scholarship application package not being considered for any award. All application materials become the property of NOPHNCSE. I hereby give NOPHNCSE permission to share this information for the purpose of recruitment, public relations, or possible employment.

I hereby certify that I have read the application information and guidelines, as well as this Certification, and that I understand and accept all of the conditions specified. Failure to sign this Certification will result in my ineligibility for this Scholarship Award.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_